

Biography of Dr. Michael Flaherty

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Dr. Flaherty is a clinical psychologist with more than 38 years of practice. In 1999 he founded the Institute for Research, Education and Training in the Addictions (IRETA) in Pittsburgh. Prior, he was the head of Behavioral Care at the St. Francis Health System in Pittsburgh and Director of its Institute for Psychiatry and Addiction Services. During his tenure, St Francis was the largest community – hospital based behavioral health system in Pennsylvania reaching over 32,000 individuals annually. In 1999, St. Francis Health System, with the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center, he was the Co-Founder of what is today Pennsylvania’s largest non-profit behavioral managed care company, Community Care Behavioral Health. He continues today on its Board. He has authored over 26 Federal and Foundational grants and more than 45 articles, chapters and monographs on topics ranging from pregnancy and addiction, the importance to science of *community* based recovery focused care; workforce development in behavioral health; overdose prevention; to the chronic disease understanding of addiction and how each community must be the cornerstone for today’s community’s integrated population health. A pioneering leader in building a science of recovery, over the past 15 years he has spoken in 46 states on recovery focused care and was a regularly invited adviser to the White House Office National Drug Control, assisting as an expert advisor in the first White House Overdose Prevention Plan (2015), as co-leader and facilitator of W. Pennsylvania’s initial Overdose Strategy (2017), and in the design of Pennsylvania’s Overdose Plan (*Commonwealth*, 2018). Today he serves as Board President of the national Annapolis Coalition for Behavioral Workforce Development; as subject matter expert to SAMHSA’s Military, Veterans and Families Substance Use Technical Assistance Center and as a recent Board member of Fol All Seasons, Inc, Behavioral Health and Rape Crisis Center on Maryland’s Eastern Shore. He also continues to focus on clinical practice and assisting communities, counties, and states to develop and implement recovery focused behavioral health (MH/SU). Dr. Flaherty currently co-locates between his Murrysville, Pa. office and Tilghman Island, Maryland where he oversees a “pro bono” mental health center and overdose prevention program for that rural community. In 2016, Dr. Flaherty received the Pittsburgh Psychological Association Legacy Award for his lifetime contributions in psychology and health care.

Dr. Flaherty is also a retired Captain (Surface Warfare) in the U.S. Naval Reserve with 27 year’s service on active and reserve duty including active service in Bosnia, Desert Shield and Desert Storm. He holds B.A. degrees in Philosophy and Psychology from the Pennsylvania State University and a M.A. and Ph.D. in clinical psychology from Duquesne University. He is proud of his 3 adult children and 5 grandsons.